

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Rec'd: February 23, 1963
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FROM: Moscow

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TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 2063, February 23, 5 p.m. (Section 1 of 2)

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Defense Minister Malinovsky's address on February 22 marking 45th anniversary Soviet Army and Navy apparently designed primarily to boost morale of Soviet Armed Forces on important anniversary.

Those forces, which have been taught since Second World War to believe they all but invincible, have suffered serious shock through demucement of Cuba Crisis, which leadership attempting offset through threats of devastating counteraction in event US attack on Cuba. Extent to which leadership credits USG's non-invasion undertaking difficult determine, but it may believe it can count on undertaking to extent of being able afford utter such threats now with some assurance that it will not be called upon honor them.

Speech also obviously intended impress foreign, bloc, and domestic audiences that Soviet Union acting from position of unparalleled offensive and defensive military strength rather than from weakness, especially with respect to Cuba. In large measure, speech is direct response to statements by US officials, /especially

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especially recent McNamara testimony before House Armed Services Committee, reflecting growing confidence in US Military posture vis-a-vis USSR.

Most significant aspects of speech appear to be following:

Cuba. Malinovsky warning that Soviet Union will come to aid of Cuba in event of attack by US and that war would be carried to US territory is presumably meant to be commitment aimed at discouraging US proponents military action against Cuba. Soviets may further view commitment and threats as necessary preliminary to withdrawal certain number troops from Cuba, both vis-a-vis Castro and as counter to domestic interpretation withdrawal as further evidence weakness. (Obviously, such counter also required by dispute with CHICOMS).

Speech attempts stimulate public pressures in US against Cuban venture by warning that Soviets capable of wiping from face of earth in "simultaneous blow...all targets, industrial and administrative - political centers of US." This threat appears reject McNamara suggestion that initial blows might be limited to strategic-missile targets. (Soviets may believe their own propaganda claim that US population shaken by realization during Cuba Crisis that US could come under nuclear attack (Embassy's A-797, December 4, 1962), Malinovsky's remarks seek to play on these alleged fears.)

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Allies. At same time Malinovsky levels threat at US, he hopes undermine will of US allies by warning that countries which make their territories available for US bases will be completely destroyed. Threat is presumably intended raise doubts regarding establishment bases for Polaris subs, which Malinovsky contends Soviets can now locate at sea and destroy.

Soviet military budget. Despite fact that Malinovsky betrays concern over increase in US military budget, he presents no hard evidence that Soviets intend follow suit.

RMR

General tone. Address is sharpest attack launched against US and West for some time as is exemplified by stress on accusation that US, Britain, and France aided Hitler in hopes he would attack Soviet Union. It accuses USG of "conniving at unbridled campaign" calling for eventual "unleashing aggressive war" against Cuba and of "sending submarines against our merchant ships . . . which could turn out to be extremely dangerous."

Miscellaneous. In contrast last year, Western military Attaches invited to Kremlin Palace for celebration, thus underscoring desire of Soviets to make impression West. Only ripple of

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applause greeted mention of Fidel Castro, with audience taking cue from Khrushchev who sat silent.

At outset of ceremony, Khrushchev, in military uniform (as was Brezhnev), embraced and kissed Voroshilov who, clad in Marshal's uniform, sat next to Khrushchev throughout meeting.

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